HANDBOOK OF PHONOLOGICAL DATA
FROM A SAMPLE OF THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES

A Report of the Stanford Phonology Archive

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	160 Maasai	160 Maasai	160 Maasai
160	01 p [beta][01 60] [b][61]	16 r-flap[06 60] (tag(-),free) */t/	65 o
160	02 b-implosive	17 r-trill-voiceless[06]	66 o-long
160	03 t *[r-flap] [eth][02 60] (free) [d][61]		67 o-open
160	04 d-implosive	51 i	68 o-open-long
160	05 j-implosive	52 i-long	69 yod[64] (tag(+),allo) */yod-long/ [iota-glide][64]
160	06 k [gamma][60] [g][61]	53 iota	70 yod-long *[yod]
160	07 g-implosive	54 iota-long	71 w[64] (tag(+),allo) */w-long/ [upsilon-glide][64]
160	08 t/s-hacek[04] [d/z-hacek][61]	55 e	72 w-long *[w]
160	09 s[03]	56 e-long	
160	10 s-hacek[03]	57 epsilon	
160	11 m	58 epsilon-long	81 high
160	12 n	59 a [schwa][62]	82 mid[30 63] (allo,surface) */low/
160	13 n-palatal	60 a-long	83 low[08]
160	14 eng	61 u	84 falling[09] (limited)
160	15 l[03 07]	62 u-long	
		63 upsilon	
		64 upsilon-long	

160 $a Maasai $d Nilotic $e Kenya $f 190,000 $g John Crothers $g Jim Lorentz (review)

160 $a Tucker, A.N. and J. Tompo Ole Mpaayei $b 1955 $c A Maasai Grammar $f (Publications of the African Institute, Leyden No.2) $g London: Longmans, Green and Co. $q co-author is native speaker

160 $a Tucker, A.N. and M.A. Bryan $b 1966 $c Linguistic Analyses: The Non-Bantu Languages of North-Eastern Africa $g London: Oxford University Press

160 $a **ADVANCED TONGUE ROOT VOWELS** $A The "close" vowel set has "breathy" or "hollow" voice; the "open" vowel set has "hard" voice. This may mean ordinary voicing or perhaps some tendency toward creakiness. The "short" glides are identified with the "open" vowels, the "long" glides with "close" vowels. (Tucker and Bryan, p.448) Presumably voice quality of glides is affected in the same way as that of vowels. See statement on vowel harmony.

160 $a **GLIDES** $A Syllable internal V + Glide sequences, contrast phonemically with homorganic disyllabic vowel sequences. (Tucker and Bryan, p.455) These diphthongs occur "in open syllables only." And: "It is often difficult to distinguish a diphthong from a disyllable." (p.445) Example of claimed contrast: /epsilon.upsilon-glide/, /epsilon.syllable boundary.upsilon/. (Tucker and Bryan, p.455) Tucker and Mpaayei (p.51-52) give examples which show diphthongs ending in either high [yod, w] or lower-high [iota-glide, upsilon-glide] vocalics. The high vocalics correspond to prevocalic /yod-long/ and /w-long/ respectively, the lower-high vocalics correspond to prevocalic /yod/ and /w/. Tucker and Bryan (p.448) identify /yod-long/ and /w-long/ with the "close" vowels (advanced tongue root) and /yod/ and /w/ with the "open" vowels (retracted tongue root). /yod/ and /w/ do not appear to be phonetically "open," i.e., lower-high in prevocalic position. We assume that in prevocalic position they merely contrast as high glides with their long ("strong") counterparts, and in postvocalic position (1) the long glides are shortened and (2) the short glides are weakened to lower-high. Generally (based

on the examples given) the sets of "close" and "open" diphthongs do not contrast. That is (except for a contrast of /e/ and /epsilon/ before [iota-glide]), the "close" vowels occur before the "close" glides, the "open" vowels before the "open" glides.

160 $a **INTONATION** $A Maasai has downdrift (progressive lowering of each group of high tones after each low tone in a sentence). In addition there appears to be a tendency for some phrase final high tones to be lowered. It is not clear whether this represents a phrasal intonation pattern, or special tonal behavior of certain morpheme classes. (p.170-174)

160 $a **STRESS** $A No stress. However, Tucker and Bryan (p.449) say that stress normally falls on the stem syllable in the "Paranilotic" (= East Nilotic) languages. It is not clear whether this applies to Maasai. Note that tone sequence patterns resemble word accents.

160 $a **SYLLABLE** $A (C)V(:)(C) $A There is no discussion of the syllable. Tucker and Bryan (p.448) give one example of a syllable final cluster. A brief survey of the grammar reveals only (C)V(C) syllables.

160 $a **TONE HEIGHT** $A Due to "downdrift" (the progressive lowering of high tones after each low or "downstepped" high tone in a sentence) high tones have a variety of actual pitch values. Similarly low and downstepped high tones have different pitches, depending on their position in a sentence, the early ones being higher, the later ones lower. (See p.170.)

160 $a **TONE** $A domain of tone: syllable $A While Tucker and Mpaayei set up two tonemes (perhaps three, if downstepped high should prove distinctive) their phonological distribution is limited to certain sequences as follows: a word begins with any number of low (phonetically mid) tones, followed by one or more high tones, followed by any number of low or downstepped high tones. An efficient transcription would use three tone diacritics (high, low, downstepped) marking the first high in a word and the first low or downstepped thereafter. In some words a downstepped tone (or sequence of tones) occurs followed by another high tone. In the verbal paradigms this is due to certain affixes. The reason for it in a limited number of nominal forms is not immediately obvious. Lexically, nouns and adjectives exhibit several different tone sequences (tone classes). Within each class differences in tone pattern distinguish noun (and adjective) cases, and are also important in other aspects of the nominal paradigms. All verbs seem to belong to a single tone class; tonal differences are important in verbal paradigms. See p.72ff, 167ff. [JHC]

160 $a **VOICELESS STOPS** $A /p, t, k, t/s-hacek/ "are pronounced like Swahili 'p, t, ch, and k'...initially and finally in stems." This is assumed to mean unaspirated voiceless stops. [JHC]

160 $a **VOWEL HARMONY** $A Maasai vowels fall into two sets, a "close" set and an "open" set. A word contains vowels from only one set. Prefixes and suffixes harmonize with the stem. The "open" set consists of /iota, epsilon, a, upsilon, o-open/ and long counterparts and has "hard" voice quality. The "close" set consists of /i, e, u, o/ and long counterparts and has "breathy" voice quality (also described as "hollow" quality) which is probably due to pharyngeal expansion. (p.51; also see Tucker & Bryan, p.444)

160 01 $A Tucker and Bryan use the symbol for a bilabial, i.e. [beta]. Tucker and Mpaayei are vague on the point of articulation.

160 02 $A Point of articulation not given for [eth].

160 03 $A /s, s-hacek, l/ are identified with the corresponding English and Swahili sounds. (p.xvii)

160 04 $A "c" "tends towards" [t/s-hacek]. (Tucker and Bryan, p.448) Identified with Swahili /t/s-hacek/. (p.xv)

160 06 $A /r-trill-voiceless/ is "usually unvoiced." (p.xvii) /r-flap/ and /r-trill-voiceless/ do not contrast word finally, where only /r-trill-voiceless/ can occur.

160 07 $A /l/ may be velarized, as implied by identification with English /l/, and the comment that "final /l/ is always 'clear.'" (p.xvii)

160 08 $A The fully low variety of /low/ tone occurs only phrase finally.

160 09 $A Falling tone appears to be limited to word final syllables. It may be the result of contraction of high and low tones. The source is unclear on this point. Tucker and Bryan (p.449) say that "there is also a falling tone which seems to constitute a separate toneme."

160 30 $A Where the mid tone level occurs as a "downstepped" high tone this is transparently due to elision of a low tone syllable (p.173) or to phrase final lowering of high tone, which occurs with some words. (p.172-3) There do not appear to be any cases of word internal downstepped tones, or downstepped tones with grammatical significance. (Based on p.167-174.)

160 60 $A Voiceless stops become voiced fricatives intervocalically. (p.xv; Tucker and Bryan, p.448) (Stated vaguely in both sources, with the suggestion that voiceless fricative or voiced stop variants may occur also.) Further, [r-flap] apparently occurs as an alternate (and more

common?) allophone of /t/ intervocalically. (p.xv)

160 61 $A Voiceless stops and the affricate are voiced after nasals. ("considerably weakened" (Tucker and Bryan, p.449); "almost like English 'b, d, g.'" (Tucker and Mpaayei, p.xv))

160 62 $A /a/ becomes [schwa] after /w-long/. (p.xiv) (There is no "close" counterpart to /a/ or /a-long/ phonemically; however the "close" allophone [schwa] occurs. Tucker and Mpaayei state the environment given here. Tucker and Bryan (p.444) add /yod-long, i, u/ as environments. All belong to the "close" set of vocalics.) The examples in Tucker and Bryan (p.448) show /a/ raised to [schwa] both before and after these high vocalics.

160 63 $A /low/ tone is raised to [mid] word initially.

160 64 $A Glides are weakened postvocalically such that: (1) Long glides (/yod-long/ and /w-long/) are shortened and (2) short glides (/yod/ and /w/) are lowered to lower-high: [iota-glide] and [upsilon-glide] respectively.